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THE AREA

Sam Dale Lake Conservation Area, 1½ miles northwest of Johnsonville in Wayne County, is a multi-use recreational area enclosing a lake. The site is named in honor of Sam O. Dale, a state representative for 8 terms in the Illinois General Assembly from the 56th district. Mr. Dale was active in public schools as a teacher, principal and Hamilton County Superintendent.

The initial land acquisition of 40 acres was made in 1959 by the State of Illinois. The total acreage is now 1,301.

THE LAKE

The dominant feature of the site is the lake. Sam Dale Lake covers 194 acres, has a maximum depth of 18 feet and has a shoreline of 8½ miles. The shape of the lake is long and thin with many curves and fingers.

NATURAL SCENE

The area is generally rolling, with some small, nearly flat fields. The hunting area is open fields and brushy weedy fields interspersed by ever-green plantings and fencerows. The timber areas are mostly small, second-growth with one larger tract of 23 acres of mostly mature timber.

Most of the trees, flowers and plants common to this part of Illinois are found here. Wildlife includes quail, rabbit, dove, squirrel, deer and woodcock.

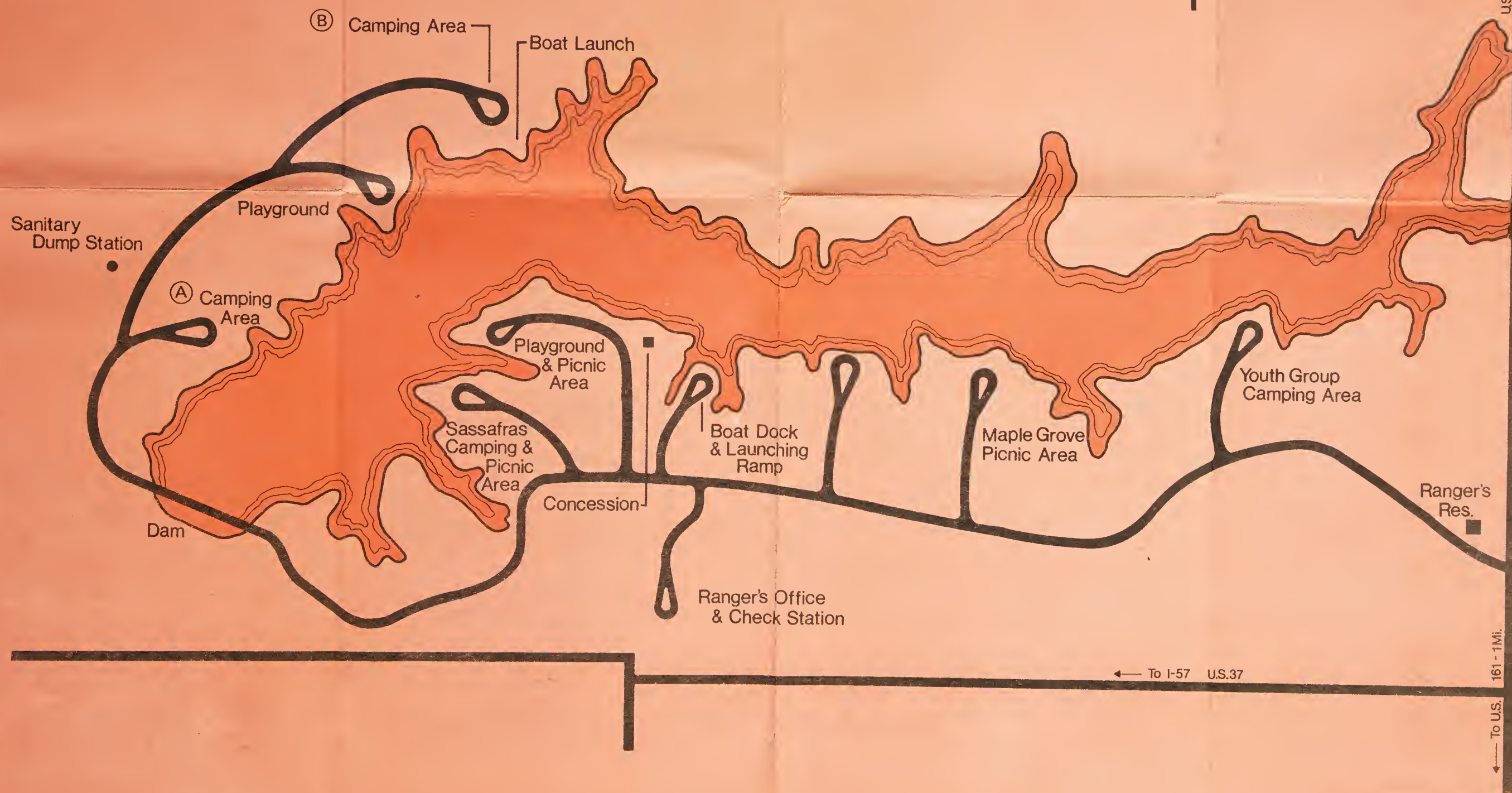
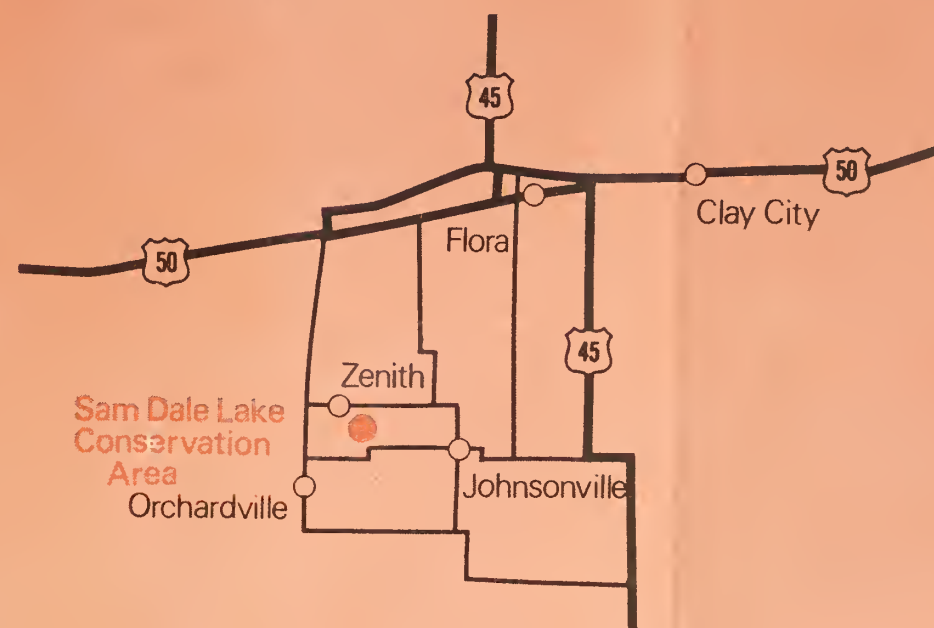
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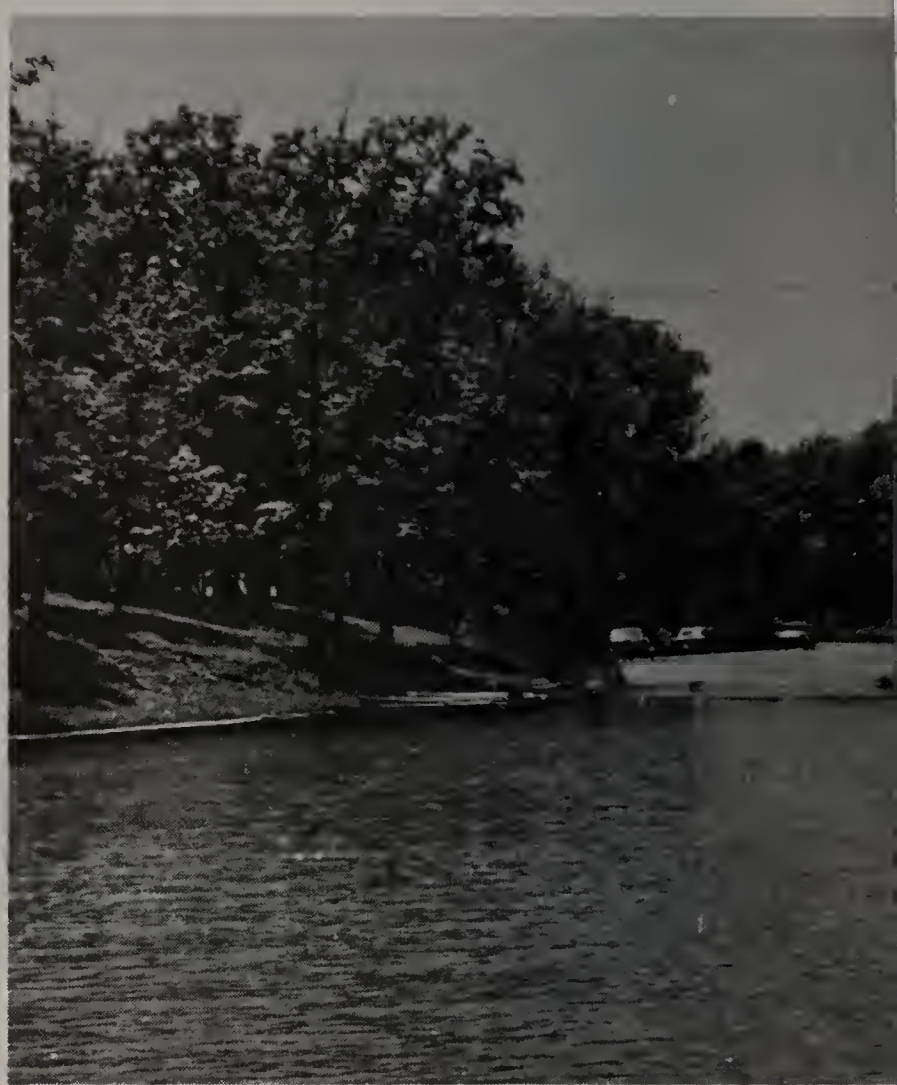
Picnicking: There are several picnic areas with drinking water, tables and outdoor stoves. Playground equipment is nearby. A concession stand has sandwiches, cold drinks and fishing bait available.

Camping: Facilities are available for both tents and trailers, along with some electricity and a sanitary dump station. Contact the site manager for a camping permit. Group camping is permitted; all groups of over 25 persons need advance permission to enter the campground.

Fishing and Boating: The lake contains large-mouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel

Park Maps





catfish, bullheads and yellow perch. There are two launching ramps, boat docks and rental boats available. The motor limit is 10 hp.

Winter Sports: Ice fishing is permitted when the weather conditions are favorable.

Hunting Regulations

1. Hunting is restricted to those areas posted as open to hunting. Restricted areas are enclosed by red signs with black letters.
2. A check station is present on the area (see map). All hunters, except squirrel hunters, must check in and leave their hunting license until the completion of their hunt. All hunters, except squirrel hunters, will wear a back patch, secured at the check station, on their coat or hat while hunting on this area.
3. All hunters, including squirrel hunters, are to check out and report their day's harvest.
4. All hunting is to be with shotgun and bow and arrows only. No rifles or pistols are permitted while hunting on this area.

Check with the site ranger for game species and hunting time and dates. Approximately 930 acres are available for hunting.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Ranger, R.R. 1, Johnsonville, 62850, phone 618/835-2292. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Section, State Office Building, Springfield, 62706.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois
Issued by

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Information/Education Section
50M-5-74



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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